

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3862

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20480

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, EEC

SUBJECT: DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EC PARLIAMENT

REFS: (A) LONDON 19304; (B) BONN 19298 (NOTAL)

1. FRG BONN GROUP REP (DUISBERG) AND TRUMPF OF OFFICE
IN FONOFF WHICH DEALS WITH EC AFFAIRS HAVE
INFORMED US OF THE TIMETABLE ENVISIONED BY THE FRG FOR
THE PASSAGE OF ITS DOMESTIC LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING
THE EC COUNCIL DTPN# ON DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. ACCORDING TO DUISBERG AND
TRUMPF, THE FOLLOWING STEPS ARE INVOLVED IN ADOPTION OF
THE LEGISLATION:

-- THE RATIFICATION LAW WILL BE READY FOR INTRO-
DUCTION IN THE BUNDESTAG BY THE END OF

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JANUARY. THE GOVERNMENT ANTICIPATES

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL. HOWEVER, AT THE PRESENT TIME THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS NOT TO SUBMIT THE RATIFICATION LAW UNTIL ENABLING LEGISLATION HAS BEEN DRAFTED. THE TWO WILL THEN BE SUBMITTED AS A PACKAGE.

- DRAFTING OF THE ENABLING LEGISLATION IS PRESENTLY STALLED. THE GOVERNING COALITION (SPD AND FDP) CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF LANDESLIST (STATE) VERSUS BUNDESLIST (FEDERAL) AND DECIDED THAT BUNDESLIST IS THE BEST APPROACH. (IT HELPS PRESERVE THE FDP POSITION.) HOWEVER, THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION FAVORS LANDESLIST. THE FONOFF BELIEVES THAT THE CSU'S RECENT DECISION TO FORM A SEPARATE BUNDESTAG FRAKTION WILL INCREASE THE CSU'S DESIRE FOR THE LANDESLIST APPROACH. THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO HAVE THIS QUESTION THRASHED OUT WITHIN BUNDESTAG COMMITTEES.
- SINCE THE NEW BUNDESTAG WILL BE INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING ITSELF AT THE BEGINNING OF ITS SESSION IN JANUARY, AND THEREFORE MEANINGFUL CONSULTATIONS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY POSSIBLE, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO INTRODUCE THE ENABLING LEGISLATION (AS WELL AS THE RATIFICATION BILL) UNTIL APRIL, 1977.
- THE GOVERNMENT WILL TRY TO HAVE BOTH LAWS ENACTED BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS OF PARLIAMENT, BUT OUR FONOFF SOURCES DOUBT THAT THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE.

2. COMMENT: THIS TIMETABLE INDICATES SOME SLIPPAGE FROM THE EARLIER SCHEDULE REPORTED IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL B, WHICH ENVISAGED INTRODUCTION OF THE RATIFICATION LAW INTO THE BUNDESTAG BEFORE THE END OF 1976. OUR SOURCES SAY THAT QUESTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH ORGANIZATION OF THE NEW BUNDESTAG ARE THE ONLY REASON

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FOR THIS SLIPPAGE. THEY PROFESS NOT TO BE WORRIED ABOUT MEETING THE DIRECT ELECTION TARGET DATE.

STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: BONN 20480(03)AS RECEIVED.

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